

## WORKING WITH PHARMACOLOGY REFERENCES

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Pharmacology references contain information necessary for proper use of drugs, which can save the lives of people, prevent diseases, lessen or eliminate pain, help people live longer, healthier lives. At present many medicinal preparations come to the Republic of Belarus from abroad, pharmacology references being in the majority of cases in English.

Medical specialists and general practitioners should be able to read and to understand them in order to recommend such drugs to their patients, to instruct the patients as how to use these medicinal preparations. That's why we teach medical students to work with pharmacology references at our English classes.

We do this at the optional course for the third-year medical students. Having studied the topic "At the Chemist's", they proceed to pharmacology references. We have already a rather large bank of them at our disposal.

MediQuik Cards are especially useful. They provide in a standard format complete information on hundreds of important drugs from a wide variety of pharmacologic classes, including several new drugs recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

First, students are asked to scan several pharmacology references and to pay attention to their language peculiarities (passive voice, modal verbs, subjunctive mood, imperative mood, conditional clauses, etc.). Then students study the structure of pharmacology references: generic and trade names, composition, action, indications and dosage, contra-indications and cautions, warnings, side effects (adverse reactions), interactions, administration and monitoring, storage, etc.). They are asked to judge the importance and the contents of each structural part. Then translation of a number of pharmacology references from English into Russian follows and thereafter, students are given different tasks: to find information on the form of a drug, its side effects, etc.; to give recommendations to a patient as how much of a drug to take and how often; to explain to a patient the importance of reporting unpleasant or unexpected drug effects to his physician; to talk to a patient and learn whether he is allergic to this drugs; to learn what drugs a patient takes and to decide on concomitant treatment with a prescribed drug; to read several pharmacology references and to

study the information on some patients choosing the most appropriate drug for each of them; to work out the rules for using drugs or modifications of therapy for special patients; to advertise the drug pharmacology reference of which they've read; to choose a set of drugs for a medicine chest and to comment on this choice; to translate pharmacology references from Russian into English, etc. Students carry out these tasks willingly and cope with them. Thus, they acquire skills in extracting necessary information from pharmacology references.